

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Paul Sewell on 10/23/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (New) A multiwell plate comprising:

- a body of laminated sheets and water adsorbent materials, wherein said body has plural hollow portions, each of which holds one of said water adsorbent materials,
- wherein said body of laminated sheets comprises,
- (a) a bottom sheet;
- (b) a removal sheet adhered on said bottom sheet and having plural through-holes;
- (c) a spacer sheet adhered on said removal sheet, having matching through-holes, wherein said through-holes of said removal sheet and said matching through-holes of said spacer sheet overlap with respect to each other,
- (d) a water adsorbent material fixing sheet adhered on said spacer sheet, having matching through-holes whose diameter is smaller than said through-holes of said spacer sheet, wherein said through-holes of said removal sheet and said spacer sheet; and said matching through-holes of said water adsorbent fixing sheet overlap with respect to each other, and further wherein said water adsorbent materials having diameters larger than the diameter of said through-

holes of said water adsorbent material fixing sheet is adhered to said water adsorbent material fixing sheet and covers said through-holes of said water adsorbent material fixing sheet; and

- (e) a coversheet covering said water adsorbent material fixing sheet.

Claim 7 (New) The multiwell plate according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of said through-holes of said removal sheet is substantially same as the diameter of said matching through-hole of said spacer sheet.

Claim 8 (New) The multiwell plate according to claim 1, further comprising an auxiliary sheet adhered between said removal sheet and said spacer sheet, and having through-holes which overlap the through-holes of said removal sheet, said spacer sheet and said water adsorbent material fixing sheet.

Claim 9 (New) A multiwell plate comprising:

- a body of laminated sheets and water adsorbent materials, wherein said body has plural hollow portions, each of which holds one of said water adsorbent materials,
- wherein said body of laminated sheets comprises,
- (a) a bottom sheet;
- (b) a first spacer sheet having plural through-holes, in which each of said through-holes has a smaller diameter on a first face of said first spacer sheet and a larger diameter on a second face defining a stepped side wall within each of said through-holes, wherein said bottom sheet is adhered to said first face of said first spacer sheet;
- (c) a second spacer sheet having plural through-holes, in which each of said through-holes has a smaller diameter on a first face of said second spacer sheet and a larger diameter on a second face defining a stepped side wall within each of said through-holes, wherein said second face of said second spacer sheet is

adhered to said second face of said first spacer sheet, further wherein said through-holes of said first and second spacer sheet overlap with respect to each other; and

- (d) a coversheet covering said first face of said second spacer sheet;
- wherein said water adsorbent materials having diameters larger than the smaller diameter of said through-holes is sandwiched between said spacer sheets.

Claim 10 (New) The multiwell plate according to claims 6, 7, 8, or 9 further comprising a packaging container which encases and seals said multiwell plate.

Specification

Delete fourth paragraph on page 4, "And a multiwell plate, which comprises a bottom sheet, a spacer sheet having plural through-holes and a coversheet covering the spacer sheet and they are sequentially laminated, and each through-hole of the spacer sheet is provided with a holding means for holding the water adsorbent material, and the water adsorbent material is held in each through-hole." and insert paragraph "Another embodiment is depicted in Fig. 4. A multiwell plate comprising: a body of laminated sheets and water adsorbent materials, wherein said body has plural hollow portions, each of which holds one of said water adsorbent materials, wherein said body of laminated sheets comprises, (a) a bottom sheet; (b) a first spacer sheet having plural through-holes, in which each of said through-holes has a smaller diameter on a first face of said first spacer sheet and a larger diameter on a second face defining a stepped side wall within each of said through-holes, wherein said bottom sheet is adhered to said first face of said first spacer sheet; (c) a second spacer sheet having plural through-holes, in which each of said through-holes has a smaller diameter on a first face of said second spacer sheet and a larger diameter on a second face defining a stepped side wall within each of said through-holes, wherein said second face of said second spacer sheet is adhered to said second face of said first spacer sheet, further wherein said through-holes of said first and second spacer sheet overlap with respect to each other; and (d) a coversheet covering said first face of said second spacer sheet;

wherein said water adsorbent materials having diameters larger than the smaller diameter of said through-holes is sandwiched between said spacer sheets."

Add paragraph "Specifically, Fig. 4 shows a multiwell plate comprising: a body of laminated sheets and water adsorbent materials, wherein said body has plural hollow portions, each of which holds one of said water adsorbent materials, wherein said body of laminated sheets comprises, (a) a bottom sheet; (b) a first spacer sheet having plural through-holes, in which each of said through-holes has a smaller diameter on a first face of said first spacer sheet and a larger diameter on a second face defining a stepped side wall within each of said through-holes, wherein said bottom sheet is adhered to said first face of said first spacer sheet; (c) a second spacer sheet having plural through-holes, in which each of said through-holes has a smaller diameter on a first face of said second spacer sheet and a larger diameter on a second face defining a stepped side wall within each of said through-holes, wherein said second face of said second spacer sheet is adhered to said second face of said first spacer sheet, further wherein said through-holes of said first and second spacer sheet overlap with respect to each other; and (d) a coversheet covering said first face of said second spacer sheet; wherein said water adsorbent materials having diameters larger than the smaller diameter of said through-holes is sandwiched between said spacer sheets." after second paragraph on page 9.

Allowable Subject matter

2. Claims 6-10 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Wicks et al. (US 5958675) has been determined to the closest prior art. Wick et al. shows a laminated body defining a well, which contains an adsorbent material therein. However a laminated structure comprising sheets having plural through-holes possessing different diameters to hold adsorbent materials is not anticipated or rendered obvious over Wick et al.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shogo Sasaki whose telephone number is (571)270-7071. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 10:00am-6:30pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS

10/23/09

/Brian R Gordon/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797